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FOR RELEASE AFTER 11:30 A.M.

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STATEMENT ON NEW YORK HOMELESS AT LINCOLN MOTEL

At the close of last month, my Administration learned that 37 homeless families numbering 142 persons from New York City were being housed temporarily in the Lincoln Motel until that city's Human Resources Administration could find suitable residential space in New York.

Several days later, I learned that what was originally believed to be a temporary situation, in fact, might result in New York City seeking a permanent arrangement to house its homeless families in Newark.

Reacting to this news, I issued a statement requesting that New York City assume what is quite rightly its responsibility for sheltering its own homeless families and remove these individuals to facilities within their own city by today, October 15.

As a founding member of Newark's Committee on the Homeless, I am sensitive to the plight of all those who are without adequate shelter, particularly those families with pregnant women and young children..and would never resort to any aggressive act to force their removal from the Lincoln Motel.



Statement on New York Homeless

page 2

At the same time, with the weather turning colder, there is a need for emergency shelter for Newark's own homeless population, and in the past the Lincoln Motel has been used to house Newark's own needy families and individuals, who because of fire or other tragedies have been forced from their homes.

Mr. Miles Berger, speaking for Berger Hotel Corporation, the owner of the Lincoln Motel, is aware of Newark's needs and has met with me and discussed at length the situation regarding New York's homeless. Mr. Berger and I have agreed that the Lincoln Motel, which has served the City of Newark for so many years is a more suitable residence for Newark's homeless than for displaced families, who are sent from New York City.

However, as of today, October 15, Mr. Berger has agreed to my request that he will no longer accept homeless families from New York.

In the meantime, it is the James administration's hope that Mayor Koch and the City of New York will show their good faith by honoring our request to remove their homeless families from the Lincoln Motel and that both cities will charge their staffs with the expeditious completion of this task.